PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:	§	
John M. Siegel, Jr., et al.	§	
	§	
Serial No.: 09/843,252	§	Art Unit: 2164
	§	
Filed: April 26, 2001	§	Examiner:
	§	
For: *Ranking Based Screening Method for*	§	Docket No.: 99-1054.02/US
Equity Analysis	§	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box: **Non-Fee Amendments**
Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

MAILING

[X] deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: _____September 28, 2001_____

FACSIMILE

[ ] transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office.

Cynthia K. Huber
Signature

_____Cynthia K. Huber_____
(type or print name of person certifying)

Sir:

In regard to the above-identified patent application, Applicants submit the following preliminary amendments and remarks to be respectively entered and considered prior to examination.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0686.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Drawings:

Fig. 2 is sought to be amended. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d), proposed changes to Fig. 2 are indicated in permanent ink on a separate page accompanying this Preliminary Amendment.

In the Specification:

A. Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph that extends from page 9, line 24, through page 10, line 3.

One or more user preferences for one or more equity parameters of interest are then received which provide information relating to the weight given each equity parameter of interest. By way of example, a preference indicating that the user would like to be provided with a list of equities having low P/E, market only may be received. Based upon this information, a weighting function such as **[score = weight (market rank)]** where **[weight (market rank) = (10 - market rank)]** may be